3rd March 1958]

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :

Ramanathapuram district.—Improvements to road from Ramanathapuram-Mandapam road (National Highways No. 49) to Uthirakosamangai, Sikkal, Sayalgudi to district limits (length 37½ miles) (exclusive of bridges and culverts). Estimated cost : Rs. 10,28,500.

Tirunelveli district.—Formation of road from Taravaikulam to Surangudi and on to district limits (including construction of culverts, soil stabilization, metalling, etc.) (excluding bridges). Estimated cost : Rs. 7 lakhs.

Coastal road from Ramanathapuram to Tuticorin

* 34 *Q.*—SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether there is any proposal before the Government to form a coastal road from Ramanathapuram to Tuticorin connecting Vembar, Kanniraja-puram, Naripaiyur and Sayalgudi villages?

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM (on behalf of the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration) : A coastal road is being formed from Ramanathapuram to Tuticorin under the Central Road Fund Programme but it does not connect Vembar, Kannirajapuram, Naripaiyur with Sayalgudi. The coastal route will connect Taravaikulam, Veppalodai, Kalluvannai, Malamandai, Surangudi, Sevalpatti, Tarikudi, Sayalgudi, Sikkal and Utharakosamangai.

The formation of a road to connect Vembar (in Tirunelveli district) with Kannirajapuram, Naripaiyur and Sayalgudi (in Ramanathapuram district) is proposed as a separate link to the above coastal road and the Government of India have been addressed for a grant. Their orders are awaited.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Questions are over.

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—CALLING ATTENTION UNDER RULE 41 (1) OF THE MADRAS COUNCIL RULES TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE, NAMELY THE ACCIDENT OF A CHILD FALLING DOWN A MANHOLE IN MOUNT ROAD, MADRAS.

* SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, under rule 41 (1) of the Madras Legislative Council Rules, I wish to call the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Revenue to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., that a nasty accident occurred on December 30, 1957, at about 6 p.m., the scene of the accident being the sidewalk opposite to Wellington Talkies, Mount Road, Madras, when a child fell down a manhole which was left open without proper cover. On a checkup, it is seen that there are several open drainages and manholes in the sidewalks in the City of Madras without any cover. Enquiry reveals that these manholes are left exposed without lids. I myself, Sir, had a sad experience. Coming from the bungalow of the hon. lady Member, Mrs. Jothi Vencatachellum, after a party that she gave, I nearly

slipped into one of these open drains in the sidewalk in the street opposite to her bungalow. The urgency for paying needed attention to this matter is quite apparent when it is noted that apart from the public nuisance caused by such open manholes, the school children run a great risk and are exposed to the danger of falling into them. Luckily, Sir, in the incident referred to, the child was saved with great difficulty by a person who was going on a motor bike at the time and who jumped down and rescued the child. The attention of the Minister is invited to the above urgent matter with a view to prompt steps being instituted to avoid recurrence of such accidents and danger to public health.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Sir, it is reported that no manhole was left open as alleged by the hon. Member and that the accident referred to by him occurred because some miscreant or pavement vendor had removed a concrete slab covering over the storm water drain by the side of the Bharat Insurance Building in the General Patters Road and left it on the other side of the road. The depth of the road is only two and a half feet. The Commissioner, Corporation of Madras, has also reported that the overseer concerned replaced the slab in its proper place immediately.

The Commissioner further states that whenever a covering slab over the side drain is found missing, the Divisional staff immediately attend to it and provide new slabs which are kept ready for such purposes and that there are also standing instructions to the Divisional staff to pay special attention to such defects. The Commissioner, Corporation of Madras, has also addressed the Commissioner of Police to instruct the Police on patrol duty to apprehend the offenders who unauthorizedly remove the drain covering slabs and to take deterrent action.

III.—GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1958–59.

* SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Budget speech of the Hon. the Finance Minister has been supplemented by the Hon. the Leader of the House who gave a clear exposition of the financial policy of the State Government which, it is clear, is based on social justice and economic progress. We are grateful to him for having given us such a clear picture. The hon. the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has always been complaining that in the Budget speeches, details are not given on the expenditure side. I was going through some of the Budget speeches in the previous years. I find that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has been making much of it that clear details are not given in the Budget with regard to expenditure on the various departments. I am sure, Sir, that he will be perfectly satisfied in regard to the procedure adopted now and that he would be able to follow